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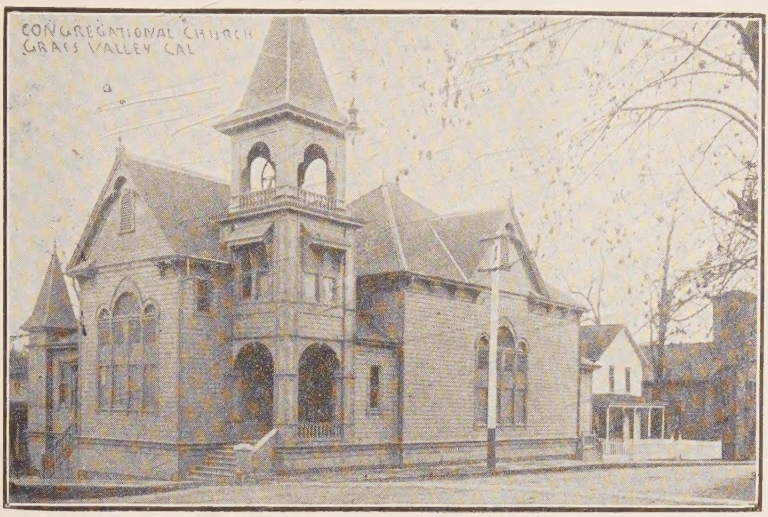
THE PACIFIC

70th Year SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL, 1920 No. 4



GOD GAVE US EASTER-DAY

God gave us Easter-day to thrill our hearts
With hope of life and joy of life; to make
Our pilgrimage to be a glad ascent
From earth's high joys to Heaven's completer joy,—
To go from opening bud and lifted flower
To harvest's golden yield—the autumn's crown—
Fruition of immortal years to come.

God gave us Easter-day lest we should feel
Imprisoned in a narrow world, nor know
Our heritage of life—of life eterne;
Our reach into the Infinite of God.

God gave us Easter-day to make us big
With hope of ever growing life, a life
Like His, so full, so rich, ineffable
And limitless as He. For this dear boon
God gave us Easter-day.

RELIGION BY CONTAGION

Prof. Rugh at a "Round-Table" said:

The primary object of the Sunday school is not the teaching of the facts with regard to the Bible, but the developing of the moral and religious instincts of the pupils and the leading them to the point where they will make right choices.

Religion is a matter that concerns the emotions and the will rather than the intellect; and the mere study of Bible history and geography with the committing to memory of Scripture passages will never in itself lead to right action and the building of strong character.

Prof. Rugh mentioned his experience during "Friendship Week' in Berkeley when sixty prominent business and professional men gave six hours a day each to personal interviews with High school boys, and three hundred boys from the Berkeley High school took advantage to talk with these men on any subject they desired. He said that the attitude of the Sunday school teacher should be such as to encourage just this sort of discussion.

Religion is transmitted by contagion, rather than by mental processes, and right action is frequently induced by the fact that those whose opinion we value expect us to act rightly.

Prof. H. F. Evans of the Pacific School of Religion continued the discussion by saying that all education is fundamentally religious in its nature, bringing out the God-given faculties and fitting them for highest uses, and only that teaching is effective that relates the facts to the life of the pupil. It is not less instruction that is needed but a new method of approach. The real teacher teaches the child, not the subject, and is concerned with the developing physical and spiritual nature of the pupil. A religious experience is the first necessity in a Sunday school teacher, as one cannot impart what one does not have.

L. B. Avery, assistant superintendent of the Oakland schools added that since the teaching of religion is by contagion large classes would make the contact ineffective. Personality is still the greatest force in character building; many an untrained teacher doing her work with a real love for her pupils and securing a response of trust and affection from them has helped them to find God.

THE PACIFIC

Established 1851.

FOR CONGREGATIONALISM AND THE CHURCH KINGDOM

The Pacific is Published Monthly by The Northern California Conference, 423 Phelan Building, San Francisco. Entered as Second-Class Matter at San Francisco Post Office. Yearly subscription, 50 cents. Club subscriptions with the Congregationalist at $3.00 per year, new subscriptions or renewals.

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ANDREW, FOR INSTANCE

"He findeth first his own brother Simon, and he brought him unto Jesus." That is how Peter became a disciple of Jesus. His brother Andrew did it. If Andrew never did another stroke of Christian service in his life, this initial act would be sufficient to make his record glorious. He brought Peter, the great Apostle Peter, to the Master. Andrew was so sure that he had a good thing that he hastened to his brother Peter, exclaiming, "We have found the Christ."

Some Christians have done work like this. Many never have. Personal evangelism is a most commonplace thing in the world of politics, of business, of social functions, and the rarest in the world of religion. Why? Voluble solicitors of life insurance are as dumb as the stones concerning salvation.

Yet this is the one campaign which Christ and the church most need. Can we not consecrate ourselves to the task of "winning one" for God this year? At least one? That would mean a hundred per cent increase in all our churches, which would be no insignificant growth. Let the slogan be, "Each one win one."

BE A "JOINER"

No headway is made by the man who pulls back. The big results of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund canvass have been attained only because nearly everybody joined in. The only churches that have fallen down have been those whose pastor or leaders refused to do team-work. One pastor in the country refused point blank to join or to allow his church to join, but they good naturedly vetoed his veto and went over the top. It is a rare church that can do that, and it is a rare pastor (thanks be) that will hinder his church from undertaking greater things.

The Inter-church drive is on at the end of this month. By an overwhelming vote the Congregational pastors of northern and southern California have decided to join in this also. Oregon also joins in. Let us all rally around our leaders and go to it for a complete success. Let no man and no church hang back. Big things will result from a united effort on the part of all the churches of all the Protestant denominations. We are nearer to the Millenium than we think.

TWENTY PER CENT.

At a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Northern California Conference on Monday, March 8th, the following action was taken:

"The Board of Trustees of the Northern California Conference desires to inform the pastors and members of all our churches that the ownership of "The Pacific" has passed into the hands of the Conference. It purposes to use this publication as a medium of communication among our whole constituency. The price has been put low in order that a very general circulation may be possible.

"The Board urges upon all the need and value of a most generous co-operation in the use of the periodical. In order that the churches may have some standard by which to determine the measure of their co-operation, the Board suggests that each church in the Conference seek to secure a minimum subscription list of twenty per cent of its total membership. This does not seem a large or impossible effort. If the churches will speedily reach this goal, the continuance and effectiveness of The Pacific will be guaranteed."

F. J. Van Horn, Chairman.
L. D. Rathbone, Secretary.

THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

The job is not done yet. The biggest part of the fighting for a "dry" America is yet to come. We must not for a moment rest on our arms. In spite of the fact that an overwhelming part of our population wants the amendment enforced in the letter and spirit of it, the foes to temperance are mustering their forces and may, if we are not alert, accomplish their nefarious designs.

They propose to nullify the effect of the amendment by repealing the law for its enforcement or by securing a constabulary that will wink at violations. Every man and woman who believes in temperance shou'd be registered, and in the primaries and everywhere vote straight out-and-out for those people who are sure friends of prohibition.

The Anti-Saloon league has found one such man running for United States senator, Mr. A. J. Wallace. Let us see that Mr. Wallace is put solidly upon the Republican ticket for that office, and then see that he is seated there by an unmistakable majority in the fall.

Let not the enemy catch us sleeping. Let us see that the will of the people is not nullified by the intrigues of the liquor interests. The price of prohibition is eternal viligance.

Small churches may make for sociability. They do not make for growth. Seventy-six per cent of the churches in the "less than twenty-five member" class are losing members. Forty per cent of those with a membership from twenty-six to fifty are losing and twenty-five per cent of the churches whose members number between fifty-one and one hundred are losing members.

WHY JOIN INTER-CHURCH MOVEMENT

There are some plain reasons for that. We have always talked loudly in favor of denominational co-operation; now is our chance to demonstrate that we meant what we said. We would be everlastingly disgraced if we did not co-operate.

We must go in, also, because we need the money. Here is a statement of the whole matter in a nutshell:

"Without a large emergency contribution by Congregationalists during 1920, our missionaries will live on starvation salaries, our mission boards will accumulate heavy and inescapable debts, certain great and promising union enterprises in foreign lands will be carried, to our shame, wholly by other denominations, at least two of our colleges at home will close their doors, and all the rest, save a fortunate few, will do their work under disastrous limitations."

Note these facts:

The 1,800 persons commissioned under the Home Missionary Society and the 700 under the American Missionary Association can no longer live on the amounts paid them. Some in despair are going into business. Some are literally undernourished and underclothed. Relief must come quickly. The customary salary in our Southern schools has been $25 a month and board?

Every church building which goes up in city or country costs from 75 to 100 per cent more than in pre-war days.

In one of the strongest of our Western colleges a careful investigation recently revealed the fact that practically every member of the faculty was compelled to earn money outside or borrow from friends in order to live.

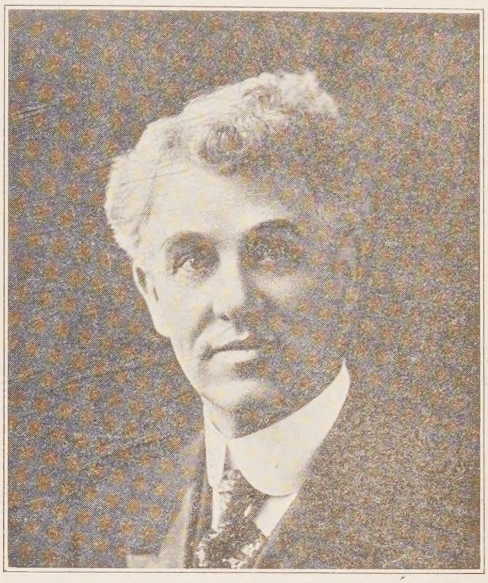
The American Board is confronted at the threshold of the year by an estimated charge of $250,000 to meet the reversal of the rate of exchange between the United States and countries on a silver basis. Before the war the American dollar brought twice its face value in Chinese silver. Now it brings 84 per cent of its face.

We cannot keep out of this movement. We do not want to keep out. The drive is on from April 25th to May 2nd. All the great denominations are joining in it. The drive is for $336,777,572. Our askings are for $3,300,000.

A NOVEL CONTEST WITH GREAT RESULTS

Rev. C. E. Robinson, pastor of the Grass Valley church inaugurated a friendly contest among his people in the matter of attendance upon the church services, Sunday school and mid-week services, with a remarkable success. His constituency was divided into two camps, the "Reds" and "Blues," and then they went to work to beat each other in record of attendance upon all the services. The result has been a remarkable revival of interest among the people of Grass Valley in the matter of church attendance. The church began to fill up, and on Feb. 22 all the available space in the building was occupied by a congregation larger than had been seen there for years, if ever before.

The enthusiastic campaigners set a new record for church prayer-meeting attendance also. The prayer-meeting room was not only filled but the people kept coming in until it was necessary to open the doors into the auditorium and all chairs were used for the congregation, the choir chairs, and even the chairs of the primary department were brought in.



REV. C. E' ROBINSON

The local paper credits the interest in large part to the fine practical preaching of the pastor. At the close of the contest the losers are to furnish a dinner for the winners. The devotion and spiritual interest of the meetings have not been hurt at all by the friendly rivalry. One advantage of the contest has been a wide-spread and lively publicity that has stirred the whole community. The pastor feels that many people have been won permanently to the church and Sunday school, and that a new interest has been created in religious work in the town.

"But what about the outcome of the contest?" asks the printer's devil. A very pertinent inquiry. The "Reds" won, because of the good red blood in them; but the "Blues" were true blue and furnished a feast that gladdened all hearts and satisfied all appetites. The tables were spread and spread again four times for the throngs that came; and then all adjourned to the auditorium, where an entertainment was furnished by the vanquished to a crowded house. It was a great contest; and a great good will come from the new publicity given to the church services.

The Holy Supper is kept indeed,
In whatso we share with another's need;
Not that which we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who bestows himself with his alms feeds three;
Himself, his hungering neighbour, and Me.

The Congregationalist can be had with the Pacific for one year at $3.00 through this office. This applies to both new and old subscribers.

POMONA COLLEGE NOTES

Prof. Lyman is doing fine work as director of a morning choir of college young men and women, and an evening choir of community young people and children. The morning choir recently rendered Gounod's "Mass of St. Cecilia," and on a following Sunday repeated the service in the Pilgrim Church of Pomona in exchange with the choir of that church.

Raymond Robbins spoke recently on "The Challenge of the World Task." He claimed that the United States, because of its free church, free speech, and free economic system, and because it is not rent by class divisions, would be able to withstand the menace of the Russian Soviet problems.

Dr. Tasuka Harada, formerly president of the Doshisha University, has been lecturing to the college upon "The Life and Thought of Japan" and "The Spirit of Japan," his initial lecture being upon "The Spirit of Japan As Seen in Religious Reconstruction."

Dr. Kingman, pastor emeritus of the church, spoke on Sunday morning, February 29th, upon "The Glory of Human Life." His health has been very precarious this winter, but his friends were glad to have this proof of his improvement .

On March 7th Pastor MacLeod received twenty-one new member into the church.

Professor Edward C. Moore, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals in Harvard University, is here in residence as Exchange Professor in the Department of Philosophy. He is best known to Congregationalists as the President of the American Board. He is delivering two series of lectures upon "The History of Christian Thought" and upon "The Philosophy of Religion." The Professor spent six months in the Near East as a member of the Commission that went out under Secretary Barton, and on Sunday evening, the 14th of March, he spoke in the church upon "The Situation in the Near East As I Saw It." He very severely arraigned the course of the United States in its failure to ratify the treaty and meet the opportunity of service to the suffering nations of Europe and Asia.

The work on the new Woman's Dormitory is going forward rapidly. It is of reinforced cement and is to be fireproof, and will be ready for use in September.

The Trustees of the college have again limited the future incoming classes to 115 young men and 115 young women. With great and expanding opportunities and limitations largely material, the college is doing its utmost. Where is the man or woman who will give it five millions to enable it to meet the neds of tomorrow?

W. C. MERRITT.

If there is anything of special interest to you in your work, it may well be believed that it will also be of interest to the remainder of the good Congregationalists of the coast; so would it not be a graceful thing to write down certain memoranda concerning that special item and allow the editor of the paper to use it for the embellishment of the columns and enhancing the value of this newspaper.

ASILOMAR OR WHERE?

Where shall we hold our next Northern California Conference. At Asilomar? or where else? At present no "where-else" has offered itself. Last year the Conference left it to the trustees to determine whether we should go or not. The trustees consulted with the Pastor's conference in February, and while most seemed favorable to that village by the sea, the vote was for the trustees to secure information as to the expense of such a venture, and get a referendum of the churches.

We are still in the dark. Perhaps light may break upon us ere final decision has to be made. As matters stand now, Asilomar is the only destiny in sight. The Conference may have to go there because there is no where else to go. It will be Hobson's choice. Not a bad choice either.

The Southern Conference is already arranging for an educational gathering at Long Beach the last week of July, somewhat along the lines of the Asilomar suggestion. It would be a fine strategy if the two sessions could be combined at some place midway between the Conferences. That may come later.

AVALON RETREAT

The pastors will hold their eighth annual Retreat at Avalon, April 5-9, as guests of the Avalon Church and pastor. The Santa Catalina Island Company will furnish trip passes and the Pacific Electric Company half-fare between Los Angeles and San Pedro. The Avalon people will provide free lodging for the visiting pastors, and some generous friends will furnish transportation for the missionary pastors from their homes to San Pedro. Usually from sixty to seventy pastors attend these retreats.

The Inter-Church Conference in Los Angeles brought together 542 out of a possible 835 of the ministers in Southern California. Fifty-five of the total were Congregationalists. In Northern California, the Conference got 723 pastors together, 89 of whom were Congregationalists.

WHAT THEY ARE PREACHING ABOUT

"The Word of the Kingdom," by Fred E. Holloway at Mission, San Francisco.

"The Witness of Our Faith in Christ" and "Abraham Lincoln and the Christ of Christianity," by Harvey V. Miller, Sacramento.

"The Folly of Unbelief and Ridicule," by W. A. Schwimley, Lodi.

"As for Me and My House," by Harley H. Gill, at Stockton.

"The Evolution of Personal Greed" and "The Beauty and Glory of Helpfulness," by C. L. Kloss, at Plymouth, Oakland.

"The Modern Man's Actual and Possible Use of Prayer," by Roy Campbell, at Pilgrim, Seattle.

England's drink bill for 1918 was $1,300,000,000 according to Sir Donald MacLean. In 1919 it increased to about $2,000,000,000. If England will adopt bone-dry prohibition she will be able easily to pay interest on debts owing this country.

THE INSTITUTION

Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it.

Sunset, San Francisco

The past few years have been the best in its history. Membership has doubled, finances and benevolences have almost doubled. Sunday School runs around one hundred. Young People's Society twenty. Six clubs meet every week in the gymnasium, making 75 young people, from families of every church affiliation—Protestants, Catholics and Jews, that get some benefit from our church. Rev. John Brereton, the pastor, has performed twenty-five marriages in the past twenty months. Two pastors' classes are meeting in preparation for Easter.

Mission Hills, San Diego

Plans to erect a new Congregational church in Mission Hills, with a seating capacity for about 300 and additional Sunday School rooms, have been made by the members of that church. Pledges for $13,426 of the necessary $30,000 have already been given. The seating capacity of the present chapel building is inadequate. The Sunday School especially has made rapid growth, so that now there is insufficient room for the classes. Last Sunday, for instance, one class was conducted in an automobile, and the teacher of another took her pupils to the front walk. Rev. H. B. Roberts is pastor of this thriving church.

San Jose

Prof. R. B. Dodge of the Pacific School of Religion, for three Sundays has supplied this pulpit very acceptably during the recent illness of the pastor. Mr. King is again on his feet and will now take full charge of the work.

Hollywood, Los Angeles

The Hollywood Church, Los Angeles, has received a gift of $20,000 from Miss Helen J. Woodruff, Mrs. A. J. Russell and Dr. Eugene C. Woodruff, in memory of their father and mother, for the first unit of the new house of worship now under process of construction.

Chinese Church, San Francisco

Evangelistic services for eight nights have been held, with full to crowded houses. Many Chinese women have been in the audiences, a thing unprecedented in the earlier days. Two hundred cards were signed, expressing deep interest in the Christian teaching and requesting further instruction in The Way.

Olivet, Oakland

Congregations have been constantly growing since Rev. M. J. Minkler accepted the pastorate in the early part of the year. The church is very happy in having gone over the top on the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, its quota being $250 and the pledged amount $381.

On Armenian Sunday Mr. Albert Erghott spoke and the people answered his appeal by giving not the $180 he asked, but almost doubling it. Mr. and Mrs. Minkler were stationed at Camp Merritt, near New York, for a year, with the 13th Infantry, regular army. Mrs. Minkler was Miss Zelda V. Stein, for ten years stationed with the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. of the District of Northern California. Mr. and Mrs. Minkler and little baby Roy Stein Minkler are all glad to be back in sunny California. A legacy of six hundred dollars has been received by the church from the late Mr. and Mrs. Morland S. Hewes, members of the Berkeley First church. Their daughter, Mrs. H. E. Chandler, is a charter member of Olivet.

Redlands

After six years' absence supplying other pulpits, Rev. J. H. Williams, D. D., the well loved pastor emeritus, is leading a business men's class with distinction. The men protested against the suggestion that current topics of social reform be considered, insisting rather upon distinctively religious themes. Mrs. Williams is leading with equal effectiveness a large class of women. Thus these two continue their years of service in the community.

San Diego, Park Villas.

Geo. A. Charnock, pastor. Seven new members were received into the church on March 7th, Secretary Kengott preaching the sermon.

A course of three lectures has been given at the church: "On the French front in action," by Josiah Poeton: "Stories from France, England and Germany," by the pastor, G. A. Charnock; and "The Glory of the Starry Heavens," illustrated, by George R. Lockwood. The receipts were used in purchasing a supply of Pilgrim Hymnals in half-leather, for the church.

Portland, Oregon.

The Interchurch Pastor's Conference called together a goodly number of Congregationalists. While many felt that the drives were coming pretty thick and fast, yet the Interchurch challenge was unavoidable; most of the workers determined to go ahead and do their best.

The churches of this vicinity have cultivated the fellowship during the winter months. Scappoose invited the Congregationalists for an evening of fellowship, and many went there by automobiles. Atkinson Memorial soon followed with a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Dr. Atkinson's birth. The next fellowship gathering was in the First with a large gathering.

Moving pictures are attracting the attention of the churches as practical helps for evening services and community work. The Vancouver, Wash., church just across the river has been doing good work with an ex-army outfit for some time. Sunnyside church of Portland for a year or more has found great advantage in the use of the cinema in the Sunday night service. Atkinson Memorial has lately installed an outfit and Mr. Flint reports that it has been well worth while. There is some talk of several of the churches forming a "circuit" to use a portable outfit for community work during the week as well as on Sundays.

Waverly Heights plans a great "housewarming" on the 26th of March to celebrate the interior renovation of the church property.

First Church, Portland, Oregon.

The pastor, Rev. Wm. T. McElveen, had a busy week lately. He gave two addresses on Monday, one at the Lincoln High School and another at the Women's Research Club, one address on Tuesday be-

fore the Pilgrim Men's Club of Seattle, one talk on Wednesday at the First church Women's Association, one lecture on Thursday evening at the church, and three talks on Friday, one at Reed College, another at the Y. W. C. A. and another at the Portland Women's Club. The following Sunday he was in Seattle helping in the Pilgrim Memorial Drive.

Forest Grove, Oregon.
The new church is well on toward the day of dedication. It is to be a most commodious and convenient working plant. The Rev. Walter Blair is proving a stirring leader of the college community. A two-day 'retreat' has been held in this place by the Congregational pastors of the State. The homes of the city were opened to the visitors and the Pacific University extended its hospitality most generously.

Ripon.
In a flourishing condition under the leadership of Rev. G. G. Kessel. Good congregations each Sabbath in their cozy church, and fine spirit manifest. Particular mention should be made of the C. E. Society of High School age under the leadership of Mr. Stuart Thomson. Attendance runs as high as 30 and 40 every Sunday. Ripon went nearly 300 per cent on the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, $100 of which was pledged by the C. E. Society.

Porterville.
On Sunday, February 22nd, the church was happy in receiving six new members.

Sonoma.
Through the efforts of the community Woman's Society the bell that used to belong to the Mission has been returned to Sonoma after an absence of fifty years. It will soon be hung in the belfry with proper ceremonies.

Sacramento.
Good news has come to the church from the Church Building Society to the effect that they will help out in their plans for a new building on a new location in the residential part of the city. This church has been handicapped for many years past and nearly throttled by a badly located structure. But light is at last shining through the dark cloud. Ere long this church will be carrying on its work in a sanguine and advancing manner under more comfortable circumstances. The Pacific wishes the patient and loyal people great joy in their new outlook.

Loomis.
This church is happy in the ownership of its own little press and issues a neat little bulletin. Here is a way to employ some alert boy in the Sunday school, besides teaching him the fine art of typesetting, by which he will also unconsciously learn the art of spelling, perhaps. This bulletin states that Loomis church started in 1894 with 11 members, and now has 106—"one thousand per cent growth speaks well."

Petaluma.
The First Congregational Church has what is known as "The League of Faith." It meets Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. The slogan is, "Health, Wealth, and Happiness." They believe it is the will of God that all his children should have an abundance of health, material wealth, and be in a constant state of happiness. Many people have testified that the League has helped them physically and in every other way. After the regular meeting the pastor conducts a ten minute healing meeting, and many remain for help. There is no prayer meeting problem in this church. the attendance has grown three hundred per cent. Rev. F. F. Farrington is pastor.

Berkeley, North.
After a glowing address on March 21 by Prof. Eleanor Burns of the College for women in Constantinople, the congregation surprised itself with the ease with which it raised one thousand dollars for the Armenian Relief.

Oakland, Calvary.
The church has reluctantly accepted the resignation of its pastor, Rev. C. S. Price, after two years of energetic service. Mr. Price enters upon Chautauqua work this spring.

Claremont
Under the superintendency of Rev. V. E. Marriott, the Church School at Claremont has initiated progressive plans for promoting religious education in its community. Not only has the enrollment more than doubled during the past year, but the standard has been advanced in various ways. A suitable hymn book has recently been provided for the school; classes have been more carefully graded; and plans have been formulated for a new parish house project which will meet the growing scope of the church which aims to provide a real community church school.

Portland, Waverly Heights.
Under the pastorate of Rev. Oliver Perry Avery during the past year the church has made steady progress; 28 new names added to the roll; substantial growth in the Sunday school; an intermediate C. E. society organized with 30 members. The organization of a Senior Y. P. Round-table, for post-graduate Endeavorers, has proven of great value to the church; it has initiated a number of new movements, and contributed about $100 for the various enterprises of the church. Interior of the church has been renovated at the cost of about $700, and a new heating plant will soon be installed. The pastor and his wife received a generous Christmas present, and the salary was increased by $410. Further good news is expected ere long from this church.

San Diego, First.
A campaign is on for funds for a parish house, much needed by the church. Between thirty and forty thousand dollars is the amount desired and the money in sight.

Guerneville.
This little church with only a handful of members has set a fine example for giving. The parsonage was destroyed by fire a few months ago, and the people have already raised about a thousand dollars for a new building, which is modern and attractive. The quota on the Pilgrim Fund assigned to this church was $150 but their response was so generous that they pledged $490. A fine record. Credit is due to the pastor, Rev. Charles Dains.

A REPORT OF PROGRESS.

The Pacific is issued each month in fifteen hundred copies, which go the whole length of this coast, to any other states of America, even to foreign lands. But not all who receive these copies are subscribers. We hope they soon will be. The following is the standing of our subscription list. Let's make it better.

	Feb. 1	April 1
Northern California	395	517
Southern California	198	184
Oregon	29	31
Washington	44	42
Elsewhere	65	60
	731	834

How many subscribers are there in your church? How many ought there to be? It has been suggested that we ought to establish a 20% quota for each church. That is not an impossible figure, it is easily remembered, almost as easily attained,—one-fifth of the total membership.

The Bay Association acting as a council of ordination on March 23rd ordained to the Christian ministry Norman W. Pendleton, pastor of the Park Congregational church of Berkeley. The candidate gave a full statement of the process by which he had come to the decision to ask admittance to the ministry. It was a classic, and if printed would be a valuable record for distribution among young men about to make life decisions. Mr. Pendleton said that two major convictions came out of his early home, one, the minor importance of gold, and the other the supreme value of a life of service to humanity. The sermon was by Dr. R. C. Brooks and the ordaining prayer by Prof. J. W. Buckham.

SEEKS COMFORT IN CHRIST

A young Japanese whose wife has just died has written the following letter to a missionary at Tokio. The picture of family life which is faintly etched between the lines is at variance with the usual idea of the relations between Japanese husband and wife:

"I am sorry to confess you that I never heard of the secret principle of Christianity, but the tendency of my idea should like to enter that religion. Sir, I am now in mourning of my better half. She passed away for her eternal progress, leaving her beloved husband and baby this autumn. I cannot too much grieve of this intolerable tragedy of human life, and heartily wish you will console me. I have thought about spirit and body, immortality of soul, age to come, resurrection, and so forth, but cannot yet understand them all. I will be very glad to be preached by you and your belief, and I greatly desire it, for my heart is broken since her death."

The Pilgrim Memorial Fund pledges to date in Northern and Southern California amount to $110,000 and $156,168 respectively. Their quotas were $125,000 and $154,000. Northern California is still $15,000 below the top. Southern California has gone over the top.

THE BIOLA GERMAN CHURCH.

The German Congregational Church of Biola, Fresno County, was organized in November, 1919, with Rev. Cornelius Richert as pastor. They have proceeded expeditiously to the erection of a building, which was dedicated on March 1st in services which were largely attended. Rev. John Lich of the Third German Church of Fresno gave the dedicatory address in the morning, while at the fellowship service in the afternoon greetings were given to the new church by Rev. John C. Eckhardt of Sanger, Rev. Geo. Marquardt of Dinuba, Rev. W. J. Schmalle of the Zion Church of Fresno, Rev. T. H. Giffen of the First Church of Fresno, and Superintendent Rathbone.

The church has been built and equipped at a total cost of $16,000, this being made possible by the generous aid of the Building Society.

THE YEAR'S RECORD.

The time has not yet come when full reports can be given as to benevolent contributions from the churches of the Northern California Conference for 1919, but aside from that the statistics for the year are available. The number of churches on the roll has decreased by one, Park of San Francisco and Myrtle Street of Oakland having been dropped and the German Church of Biola having been added. The membership also shows a decrease of four for the year.

On the other hand the Sunday School membership shows an increase of 190 and that of Young People's Societies of 287. Benevolent gifts aside from those to the denominational societies are greater than in 1918 by $13,301, and home expenses by $592.81. The value of church property has increased $3,200, and the amount of debt has decreased by $20,041.

The decrease in membership is not discouraging in view of the fact that fourteen churches have made extensive revision of their rolls, with losses varying from 20 to 79, while two churches, as noted above, have been entirely dropped.

The total number of additions to the churches during the year was 1675, as against 1524 in 1918. Three churches received over one hundred members each,

two between fifty and one hundred, seventeen between twenty-five and fifty, and twenty-five more over ten each.

Of churches that are active and holding services there were fifteen that report no additions to the membership.

AN INSPIRING TEAM

During the past month a missionary team has been visiting the churches of the Santa Clara, Upper Bay, Sonoma and Central Associations and holding exceedingly interesting and helpful meetings. Miss Miriam L. Woodberry of New York, the Secretary of the Woman's Department of the Congregational Home Missionary Society, and Dr. John K. Browne of the American Board have made up this exceptionally able team and have brought interest and inspiration to every church where they have been heard.

Invitations and requests for their presence have been many more than the limited time at their disposal has permitted them to accept. These visits from church to church suggested and arranged by the Conference office, have been of exceedingly great value. These two speakers cannot come to our churches too often and are always sure of a hearty welcome.

THE INDIVIDUAL

The true grandeur of nations is in those qualities which constitute the true greatness of the individual.

Rev. W. C. Kloss has resigned his pastorate at the Plymouth Church, Oakland, after a very successful service there. He has accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church at El Paso, Texas, to begin on May 1st.

Rev. O. F. Thayer, of Sherman, died on February 19th, after an illness of three weeks. He was born in 1855 and ordained to the ministry in 1886. Coming to Southern California from Idaho in 1905, Mr. Thayer had served two local churches and was widely beloved. His last pastorate of eleven years at Sherman was characteristic of his sacrificial ministry. In the industrial community, Mr. Thayer gave himself unreservedly and with little financial compensation. Such was his work also at Bakersfield where, in 1906, he organized the church now known as Pilgrim, in the railroad district of that city.

Rev. H. M. Lyman has resigned the pastorate of the Union Church (Christian and Congregational federated) at San Jacinto.

Rev. J. J. Jones has begun his pastorate at Pilgrim Church, Pasadena, and Rev. L. P. Hitchcock succeeds him at Villa Park.

Rev. N. L. Rowell, D. D., has recovered from a severe illness and is at work as usual as pastor of the Angeles Mesa Church.

Mrs. Millicent P. Yarrow has been appointed to make a study of vacation Bible schools for the Department of Religious Education of the Interchurch Monument. For some years Mr. and Mrs. Yarrow served the Mill Valley church as pastor and pastoress.

Prof. Curtis M. Geer, who is at the head of the Church History Department of the Hartford Theological Seminary, has been visiting in California, and now is in Hawaii. It is hoped that he will be able to remain there until the centennial celebration of the arrival of the missionaries.

Rev. R. R. Morson, for seventeen years pastor of the Congregational Church at Yarmouth, Maine, began his pastorate at Little Lake, February 2nd.

Long ago Maurice said that no man believes in a future life because he has proved it. Instead, he is always trying to prove it because he cannot help believing it. In the same way, if he denies it, it is not because he has proved it false or unreasonable. Far from it. The real reason for his denial lies deeper in the heart of the man. Some inner change, of which he may not be fully aware, has dissolved the pearl of great price.

MEETINGS OF THE MONDAY CLUB

March 8. Rev. Joseph S. Flacks, a Christian Jew and evangelist, gave a very earnest address to the ministers, explaining to them that if they did not preach the certain kind of theology which he himself most heartily believes and which smacks a good deal of past centuries, they would not be doing their duty and would see their flocks seeking other pasturage. Mr. Flacks, in spite of his limitations, is a very earnest and effective speaker, and in many of our churches will accomplish much good. In others that are more modern but none the less Christian in their interpretations he would not be quite so useful.

March 15. Miss Miriam Woodberry, the incomparable, with the smile that won't come off, and her fresh observations of conditions and needs, held the group of ministers with rapt attention as she pictured where we Congregationalists have failed and keep failing in our work in the South, and how we persist in being misunderstood by both the whites and blacks down there. She said a good word for Piedmont College, "which comes nearest to solving the problem," and urged more Congregationalism among the white population, with more money, and stronger support.

March. 22. President Eaton of Beloit College, the man with a world consciousness, in an address of wide vision narrated a tale of Ambassador Bryce. Bryce, who knew all the great men of the old world and the new in two generations said that if he were asked to name the six greatest of his acquaintances, Gen. Armstrong of the Hampton Institute would be in the list. Armstrong was the product of the missionary work in the Hawaiian Islands of a century ago.

Lieut. Gordon, a native Ulsterman, the most moderate of Orangemen, told the story of modern Ireland. He showed how England had been providing for the Irish better than she did for her own, how the declarations and protests of the Sinn Fein were all false, and finished his convincing address by the statement that the only disturbing element in Ireland is the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, "that hater of free institutions in the old country and in this."